

NRO review(s) completed

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100030051-5

14 00062862D

CORONA

Security

USIB D-33.7/1

13 July 1959

# PROJECT TIROS

1. TIROS is short title for "Television  Observation System", a cloud cover satellite planned for meteorological observation. The satellite is multi-sensor and will carry two t.v. cameras and one  camera. One wide-angle television camera is designed to cover an 800-mile wide area with resolution of 2.4 miles on the earth's surface. The other tv camera is designed to furnish a 75-mile wide strip with resolution of 500 to 600 feet.

2. The vehicle for launching will be a Thor-Delta rocket...Orbit altitude will be 400 miles; orbit time 100 minutes.

3. First firing scheduled for Oct 1959, one to follow spring of 1960, two per year thereafter for two years.

.....

6. TIROS was recently transferred from ARPA to NASA.

7. Up to this point TIROS has been looked upon as basically an unclassified project for weather reconnaissance.

8. Since TIROS will probably provide the first pictures of the earth from a satellite, the absence of

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100030051-5

---

**Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100030051-5**

agreed security restrictions, the resultant photographs would get immediate wide dissemination by NASA. This would provide the Soviets with free information on the effectiveness of the system for reconnaissance and perhaps even show what we are able to detect behind the Iron Curtain. Such release may not be desirable and its implications should be examined carefully before such an event.

**Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100030051-5**